

All Photos by Jonathan Wallen

### BRICK BY BRICK ANNUAL REPORT

2015

Our Mission: Create partnerships that improve education, health and economic opportunity in East Africa.

Our Vision: A world where a quality education, health and economic opportunity are available to all

www.brickbybrick.org



brickbybrick.org



#### FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

Brick by Brick is a small, innovative non-profit organization working in Uganda since 2003. In 2014, we expanded our mission, from improving primary education in rural Ugandan communities; to creating partnerships that can help communities sustainably develop by improving education, health and economic opportunity.

This expansion began as we discovered the many benefits that came from the establishment of our social enterprise, Brick by Brick Construction Company. We learned that owning a small but growing business, focusing not just on profit but on the well-being of our workers and their communities, afforded us unique opportunities for service. To date we have completed nearly 100 construction projects throughout Uganda, primarily focusing on access to clean and safe water and sanitation. We utilize an environmentally sustainable technology, providing fair wage jobs for our community. Currently we employ 12 full time masons with all profits being reinvested in our programs. In the past year we have hired a bright, young Ugandan engineer to manage our projects and have strengthened our quality assurance and management practices.

Two public health physicians founded our organization, so a commitment to improving the health of our communities was a natural extension of our mission. Our My Pads Program provides adolescents with essential knowledge about their reproductive health while teaching girls to make their own set of reusable menstrual pads. We have scaled up this program to include training of trainers, giving local teachers the knowledge and skills to implement this program that empowers young women to stay in school and make healthy life choices.

Every year 6,000 mothers and 34,000 newborns die needlessly in Uganda from complications that are easily treated in the U.S and elsewhere. After completing a three-month needs assessment of the twenty-four health centers and hospitals in the Rakai District, we have begun a training and mentoring program for doctors, nurses and midwives with a goal to dramatically reduce maternal and newborn mortality in our district.

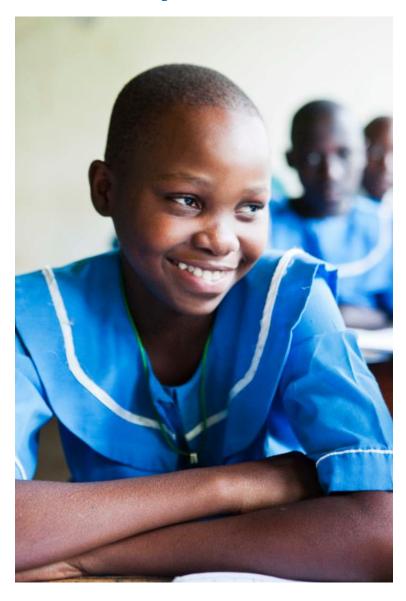
While expanding our programs to improve health and economic opportunity, we have not forgotten our roots. In 2015 we finished our complete re-build of Nakasoga and St. Teresa Primary Schools, a two-year partnership with the local communities who contributed 25% of the value of these projects. We also launched our Library Program, an innovative training program to improve the quality of school libraries throughout Uganda. 2016 promises to be a year of great challenges and opportunities. We thank you for your support.

Marc Sklar MD, MPH Executive Director

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Adam Rabinovitch Board Chair

#### **Susan's Story**



Susan is twelve years old and lives in the Rakai District of Uganda. Before Brick by Brick partnered with her village to build a rain water harvesting tank for her school, she would walk several miles daily to gather water from a distant watering hole. She used to attend classes under a tree until Brick by Brick rebuilt her school, with a 25% contribution from the local community. Like many of her friends, Susan would miss school for days at a time every month due to the lack of affordable menstrual hygiene products. Last year she attended Brick by Brick's afterschool My Pads Program where Susan learned about healthy life style choices and made her own set of reusable menstrual pads. The knowledge she has gained will make it more likely that she will stay in school, avoid unwanted pregnancies and take control of her own reproductive health.

# Brick by Brick IMPACT



Our My Pads Program
empowers girls with
knowledge about
reproductive health and
teaches them to make their
own reusable menstrual pads.



Our Babies and Mothers
Alive Program will partner
with the Ugandan Ministry
of Health to improve the
skills of doctors and
midwives who care for
a half a million people.



We've built 80 water and sanitation systems throughout Uganda serving tens of thousands of people.

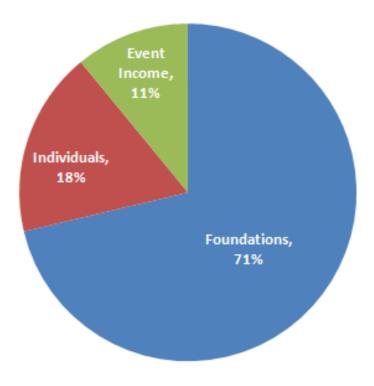


We've partnered with six rural communities to completely rebuild primary schools serving approximately 5,000 students.



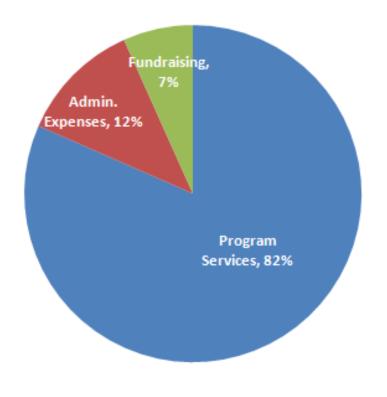
### 2015 Financials

#### **SOURCE OF FUNDS**



- Our 2015 Annual Appeal raised \$63,000, our most successful to date.
- Blues Night has increased in revenue and attendance in each of the past 4 years.
- Our grant from the Puffin Foundation has allowed us to significantly expand our programs in Uganda.

#### **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS**



- We continue to invest over 80% of our funds in critical program interventions.
- In 2016, we will have the funds to hire a highly skilled Program Director to ensure the sustainability of our organization in Uganda.

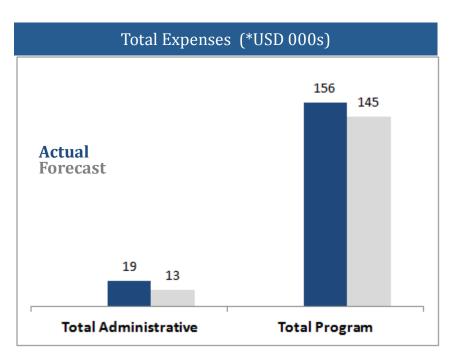
## 2015 Financials

# Revenue and Expenses

\$359,113 (175,358) (25,173) (14,408) (\$214,938)
(175,358) (25,173)
(175,358)
\$359,113
\$359,113
\$82
\$39,275
\$256,000
\$63,756

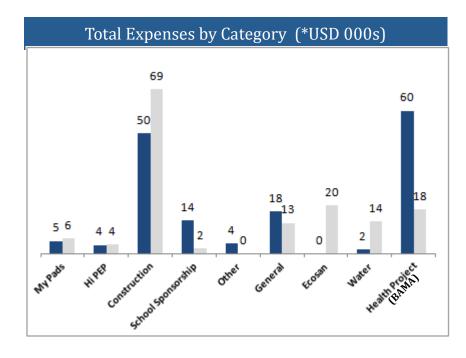
## 2015 Financials

### **Brick by Brick Uganda**



\*USD is 2,600 to 1 UGX

- US and Ugandan teams have access to real-time budget expenditures through Google Sheets.
- Newly created tracking systems provides better insights into our spending.
- While we focus on low growing administrative costs, we recognize their importance in supporting the goals of our programs.



- Overall program expenses came in close to forecast (\$156k v. \$145k forecast)
- With our expanded mission that places a priority on healthy communities, and funding from the Puffin Foundation, BAMA, our Maternal and Newborn Health Program, received increased investments

\*USD is 2.600 to 1 UGX

## **Moving Forward**

With our expanded mission to create partnerships that improve education, health and economic opportunity has come new opportunities. We have built on successful pilot programs such as our My Pads and Library Program by developing Training of Trainer workshops allowing local communities to implement these initiatives. We have launched the Babies and Mothers Alive (BAMA) Program to improve maternal and newborn health in the Rakai District of Uganda. In 2015, we completed the renovation of two primary schools, the work performed by our social enterprise, Brick by Brick Construction Company, which again turned a profit for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Here are some of our goals for the coming year:

- Recruit a Program Director for Brick by Brick Uganda, strengthening local leadership.
- Having successfully completed our work at Nakasoga and St. Teresa Primary Schools enroll two new schools for our Brick by Brick School Program and begin construction this year.
- Implement our newly designed Monitoring and Evaluation Program in the 9 schools who received training in implementing the My Pads Program in 2015.
- Perform our My Pads Training of Trainers Program in five additional schools this year.
- Implement our newly designed Monitoring and Evaluation Program for the 10 schools that received training in strengthening their school libraries in 2015.
- Perform our Library Program Training of Trainers workshop for 10 additional schools this year.
- Complete Phase I of our Babies and Mothers Alive Program, improving the knowledge and skills of health providers in 24 health centers and hospitals in the Rakai District serving 500,000 people.
- Continue to build Brick by Brick's Internship Program, which has already provided 12
  young American college graduates with a unique opportunity to serve and learn from
  our work.
- Continue to grow our Board of Directors to expand its role in oversight and development.

# Our Future

